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Seven Kentucky State Parks become StormReady® Supporters

Severe weather affects all of us from time to time, and those spending time outdoors enjoying Kentucky's natural beauty are especially at risk. The National Weather Service in Jackson, KY and Kentucky State Parks have teamed up to strengthen the weather defenses of seven more state parks in eastern and south central Kentucky. **Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, Pine Mountain State Resort Park, Paintsville Lake State Park, Carr Creek State Park, Kingdom Come State Park, Levi Jackson State Park and General Burnside State Park** have all earned the StormReady® Supporter designation from the National Weather Service.

Lake Cumberland State Resort Park was the first state park in the nation to earn the StormReady® Supporter designation back in April 2010. Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park, Dale Hollow State Resort Park, Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Natural Bridge State Resort Park, Grayson Lake State Park, Carter Caves State Resort Park and Greenbo Lake State Resort Park have since also earned the designation.

To become a StormReady® State Park, National Weather Service and Kentucky State Park officials develop a severe weather safety plan specifically tailored to each park. Park personnel are educated about the weather hazards they may face and how to respond in the event of a weather emergency. Storm shelters are identified and procedures are implemented which allow severe weather alerts and information to be passed along to park patrons and staff in a timely manner.

Americans live in the most severe weather-prone country on Earth and Kentucky is not immune. Just last year east Kentucky was hit by a major tornado outbreak, deadly flash flooding, drought, a record setting heat wave, and a heavy, wet mountain snowstorm. Each of these events could have turned a vacation into a nightmare.

StormReady®, a program started in 1999 in Tulsa, OK, helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property, before and during a severe weather event. No community is storm proof, but StormReady® can help communities save lives.

For more information about the StormReady® program please visit www.weather.gov/stormready.